

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 23, with the following paragraph:

There is no particular limitation with respect to the thermoplastic elastomers used as resin (a) in the present invention. As such thermoplastic elastomers, there can be mentioned styrene thermoplastic elastomers, such as SBS (polystyrene-polybutadiene-polystyrene), SIS (polystyrene-polyisoprenepolystyrene) and SEBS (~~polystyrene-polyethylene/polybutylene-polystyrene-polystyrene-polyethylene/polybutylene-polystyrene~~); olefin thermoplastic elastomers; urethane thermoplastic elastomers; ester thermoplastic elastomers; amide thermoplastic elastomers; and silicone thermoplastic elastomers. Alternatively, for improving the heat decomposability of resin (a), use can be made of a polymer which is obtained by introducing a readily decomposable functional group, such as a carbamoyl group or a carbonate group, into the molecular skeleton of the polymer. A thermoplastic elastomer can be fluidized by heating and, thus, the fluidized thermoplastic elastomer can be easily mixed with ~~organic~~ inorganic porous material (c) used in the present invention. In the present invention, the term "thermoplastic elastomer" means a polymer which has the ability to easily flow by heating and be easily processed into various shapes as in the case of other thermoplastic resins, and which shows rubber elasticity at room temperature. A thermoplastic elastomer contains a soft segment and a hard segment in the molecular structure thereof. The soft segment is formed by a polyether, a rubbery polymer or the like, and the hard segment is formed by a material which does not undergo plastic deformation at around room temperature as in the case of a vulcanized rubber. There are various types of hard segments, such as a frozen hard segment, a crystalline hard segment, a hydrogen bond hard segment and an ionically crosslinked hard segment.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 39, line 17, with the following paragraph:

Examples of derivatives of the compounds mentioned above as compound (b) include compounds having an alicyclic group, such as a cycloalkyl group, a bicycloalkyl group, a ~~cycloalkylene~~ cycloalkene group or a ~~bicycloalkylene~~ bicycloalkene group; compounds having an aromatic group, such as a benzyl group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group or a fluorenyl group;

compounds having a group, such as an alkyl group, a halogenated alkyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, a hydroxyalkyl group, an aminoalkyl group, a tetrahydrofurfuryl group, an allyl group or a glycidyl group; and esters with a polyol, such as an alkylene glycol, a polyoxyalkylene glycol, an (alkyl/allyl-oxy)polyalkylene glycol or trimethylol propane. Organic compound (b) may be a heterocyclic type aromatic compound containing nitrogen, sulfur or the like as a heteroatom. For example, since the printing element formed from the photosensitive resin composition of the present invention is used for producing a printing plate, for suppressing the swelling of the printing plate by a solvent used in a printing ink (i.e., an organic solvent, such as an alcohol or an ester), it is preferred that organic compound (b) is a compound having a long chain aliphatic group, an alicyclic group or an aromatic group.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 73, line 3, with the following paragraph:

With respect to the method for shaping the photosensitive resin composition of the present invention into a sheet or cylinder, any of conventional methods employed for shaping resins can be employed. For example, there can be mentioned an injection molding method; a method in which a resin is extruded from a nozzle ~~of~~ or a die by using a pump or extruder, followed by adjustment of the thickness of the extruded resin using a blade; a method in which a resin is subjected to calendar processing using a roll, thereby obtaining a resin sheet having a desired thickness; and a coating method. During the shaping of the resin composition, the resin composition can be heated at a temperature which does not cause the lowering of the properties of the resin. Further, if desired, the shaped resin composition may be subjected to a treatment using a pressure roll or an abrasion treatment. In general, the resin composition is shaped on an underlay called "back film" which is made of PET (polyethylene terephthalate), nickel or the like. Alternatively, the resin composition can be shaped directly on a cylinder of a printing machine.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 80, line 21, with the following paragraph:

Specific examples of thermoplastic elastomers used for producing the cushion layer include styrene thermoplastic elastomers, such as SBS (polystyrene-polybutadiene-polystyrene), SIS (polystyrene-polyisoprene-polystyrene) and SEBS (~~polystyrene-polyethylene-polybutyrene-polystyrene~~ polystyrene-polyethylene-polybutylene-polystyrene); olefin thermoplastic elastomers;

urethane thermoplastic elastomers; ester thermoplastic elastomers; amide thermoplastic elastomers; silicone thermoplastic elastomers; and fluoro thermoplastic elastomers.

Please REPLACE the Table 2 page 119, with the following:

Table 2

Abbreviations used in Table 1	Nomenclature	Number average molecular weight ^{*1}	Number of polymerizable unsaturated group per molecule ^{*2}
LMA	lauryl methacrylate	254	1
PPMA	polypropylene glycol mono-methacrylate	400	1
DEEHEA	diethylene glycol-2-ethyl-hexylmethyl acrylate	286	1
TEGDMA	tetraethylene glycol dimethacrylate	330	2
TMPTMA	trimethylol propane trimethacrylate	339	3
BZMA	benzyl methacrylate	176	1
CHMA	cyclohexyl methacrylate	167	1
BDEGMA	butoxy ethylene butoxy diethylene glycol methacrylate	230	1
PEMA	phenoxyethyl methacrylate	206	1

*1: When organic compound (b) was analyzed by GPC, the chromatogram showed a single peak having a polydispersibility of less than 1.1. Accordingly, the number average molecular weight was determined by mass spectrometric analysis.

*2: Value obtained by NMR.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 115, line 6, with the following paragraph:

A printing element was produced in substantially the same manner as in Example 1 except that a substantially nonporous material, namely aluminosilicate (trade name: Siltan AMT25; manufactured and sold by Mizusawa Industrial Chemicals, Ltd.), was used instead of inorganic porous material (c). The substantially nonporous material had an average ~~pore~~ particle diameter of 2.9 μm , a pore volume of 0.006 ml/g and a specific surface area of 2.3 m^2/g , and exhibited an oil absorption value of 40 ml/100 g. The specific porosity (which was obtained by the above-mentioned method using the density (2 g/cm^3) of the material) was 2.2. The standard deviation of the particle diameter distribution was 1.5 μm (52 % of the number average particle diameter). When the substantially non-porous microparticles were observed under a scanning electron microscope, almost all of the particles were regular polygon.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 116, line 9, with the following paragraph:

A printing element was produced in substantially the same manner as in Example 1 except that a substantially nonporous material, namely sodium calcium aluminosilicate (trade name: Siltan JC50, manufactured and sold by Mizusawa Industrial Chemicals, Ltd.), was used instead of inorganic porous material (c). The substantially nonporous material had an average ~~pore~~ particle diameter of 5.0 μm , a pore volume of 0.02 ml/g, and a specific surface area of 6.7 m^2/g , and exhibited an oil absorption value of 45 ml/100 g. The specific porosity (obtained by the above-mentioned method using the density (2 g/cm^3) of the material) was 11. The standard deviation of the particle diameter distribution was 2.3 μm (46% of the number average particle diameter). When the substantially non-porous microparticles were observed under a scanning electron microscope, more than 90% of the particles had a sphericity of 0.9 or more.